SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, this is a very important question. Karnataka is very rich in producing vegetables, fruit and other such things. I would like to give a paticular example. Last year tomatoes were thrown on the road. Plenty of tomatoes were there. Farmers could not get any rate for that. Actually tomatoes were thrown or given to other people. Therefore, these types of centres are very much required in Karnataka. मंत्री जी ने बोला कि सोच कर रहे हैं। खाली सोच करने से कुछ नहीं होता। उन्हें काम करके दिखाना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: आप काम करके दिखाइए।

श्रीमती बिम्बा रायकर: खाली सोच करने से क्या होता है। सब लोग सोचते हैं, काम कोई नहीं करता।

श्री सभापति: चलिए, काम करने दीजिए इनको।

श्री सुबोध कांत सहाय: मैं बताऊं कि दुर्भाग्य से यह मंत्रालय उद्योग नहीं लगाता है, नहीं तो लगाकर दिखाते, क्योंकि राज्य सरकार के ही उद्यमी को लगाना है और इसीलिए हम लोगों ने जो मिनिस्टर्स कांफ्रेंस में थे, उसमें उनको अनुरोध किया है कि कांट्रेक्ट फार्मिंग की प्रथा को थोड़ा बढ़ाइए जिससे कि किसानों को पूरी तरह से सिक्योर्ड गारंटी हो सके।

Illegal kidney transplant

*46. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals have come to light during current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the erring doctors, middlemen and hospitals; and

(d) whether there is a provision in the law to compensate the innocent donor duped into parting with a kidney, for a minimum six figure amount in rupees, from out of the fines/penalties levied on the doctors/hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Recently, five cases of alleged illegal transplant of kidneys in hospitals located in Delhi have come to the notice of the Government of India. In this connection, Delhi Police has registered a number of FIRs against Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi; Indraprasth Apollo Hospital, New Delhi; and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. As a result, ten people have been arrested by the Delhi Police. The cases are currently under investigation by the Delhi Police. One case has also been reported from Maharashtra in respect of Bombay Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai.

Sale and purchase of human organs, including kidney, is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Act contains stringent povisions for punishing any one who commits such offences. Under Section 13 of theTransplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the Central and State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs, including kidney. The Director-General of Health Services is the Appopriate Authority appointed by the Central Government in respect of Union Territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

There is no provision under the said Act to compensate the victims of commercial dealings in human organs from out of the fines or penalties levied on the doctors or hospitals registered under the Act. However, a Committee has been constituted in September, 2004 under directions of Delhi High Court in Case No. WP(C) 813/2004 to look into various aspects relating to transplantation of human organs and to suggest corrective measures. The Committee has been asked to give its report by January, 2005.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I want to put a very serious supplementary. I would like to know whether the Government is aware that some of the NGOs reported that scarred *langurs* have been spotted. It is suspected that their kidneys may have been supplied for human transplant. This was reported in the Delhi Edition of the *Hindustan Times* on 26th November. Has the Government verified the facts? Sir, I have personally spoken to some of the NGOs in Kolkata and they have confirmed that such cases have been found.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, as far as the Government of India is concerned, five cases of alleged kidney transplant have been done in Delhi and the police has filed cases. Ten persons have been arrested in Delhi and investigation is going on. There was one case in Mumbai earlier this year. As far as other cases are concerned, we have not got any report from other States in the country.

श्री राजकुमार धूत: सर, आपके पास यह नहीं है मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को यह कटिंग देता हूं। इस विषय में वे कलकत्ता में और उड़ीसा में इसकी इंक्वायरी करने की कोशिश करें। सर, मेरा सेकेंड क्वेश्चन है कि यह सीरियस मैटर होने के बावजूद भी उन्होंने बताया कि केवल 4-5 लोगों को पकड़ा गया है और मालूमात हुई है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि टोटल हिन्दुस्तान में केवल 5-6 केसेज ही हैं और यह इतना सीरियस मैटर है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय को स्टेट मिनिस्टर से भी बात करके, इसके लिए कुछ उपाय नहीं करने चाहिएं? अदरवाइज यह किडनी के साथ अदर पार्ट भी बेचने की कोशिश की जाएगी और टोटल हॉस्पिटलाइज में प्रोब्लम शुरू हो जाएगी।

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Member. We wrote to all the States and the information we got was that which I gave you earlier. We have not got much information from other States. We have not got any report from West Bengal. We have report from Maharashtra. There was one case in Mumbai earlier this year. As far as other cases are concerned, they were found in Delhi and places around it. This is a serious issue. We are looking into this issue. In fact, the Delhi High Court has asked us to form a Committee to go into the issue and see how procedure can be expedited in order to make it more useful both for the donor and the recipient. The second part is how it can be made more stringent.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, major kidney rackets are found to be active in many hospitals. A racket has been detected in Delhi recently. Illegal kidney transplants are taking place in the leading hospitals of the country and the majority of the victims are poor people. The pathetic situation is, the kidneys are removed without the knowledge of the poor people. So the illegal transplantation is taking place with the connivance of the doctors. Unless the doctors are punished this crime will not stop. So, will the Government take steps to suspend or cancel the medical practising licences to check this menace?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Member. Regarding the illegal kidney trade, which is happening, as the Member mentioned, in Delhi investigations are still going on. Making it more stringent and whether we could make it more cognisable, in fact, the Government had recommended that there is an Authorisation Committee formed in all the hospitals at the State level wherein each and every individual case is verified, whether it is a kidney transplant or any other transplant, it goes to the Authorisation Committee and there they recommend where it should be donated. Now, the Government has recommended two more Members to be appointed in the Authorisation Committee from the Government side, from the State health side and the State DGHS side. This is one part of it. There is also an appropriate Authority Committee in the State which also looks into all the complaints and concerns of this. Sir, but then again the High Court has said to us and by January next year the Committee will recommend this consideration and give its recommendation and how in one part—it could be made more strignent and the other part it could facilitate the people who would like to donate the organs. There is already a problem in one part and this has been made stringent.

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडे: माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह बड़ा ही गंभीर और महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूं कि वर्ष 1991 में विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने भारत सरकार को कुछ दिशा-निर्देश ऑर्गन बैंक बनाने के संबंध में दिये थे। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि ऑर्गन बैंक नहीं बनाने के क्या कारण हैं? एक ताजातरीन एनजीओ ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया है कि 60 लाख लोग सड़क दुर्घटना में और 20 हजार लोग ब्रेन डेथ में मरते हैं। क्या सरकार ऑर्गन बैंक बनाने की बात सोच रही है?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, already an organ bank has been formed in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences called the Organ Retrieval Banking Oganisation with a budget of Rs. 7.21 crores and they are networking initially with the hospitals in Delhi and they will go nationally and also internationally. They are registering people who would like to donate organs or recipients also who want the organs. The bank is already functioning.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, there was a law passed in the Parliament on the organ transplant and I was a Member of that Committee. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he is satisfied with

the law which the Parliament had passed as far as the illegal transplantation of organs of people is concerned, specially in relation to kidneys which is in great demand. Are you satisfied or are you going to strengthen the law and give it more teeth?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, frankly speaking, I am not satisfied. As a doctor also I am not satisfied. As I said earlier, we are going to bring in stringent measures after the recommendations of the Committee are received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 47. Shri S.M. Laljan Basha. He is absent.

*47. [*The questioner* (SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA) *was absent. For answer vide page* 33].

Seizure of silver and gold consignment from Rajdhani Express

*48. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Protection Force has recently seized silver and gold worth crores of rupees from Mumbai Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar types of consignments were detected by R.P.F. earlier also and if so, the details thereof during last two years; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 1.8.2004 the leased brake van of 2952 Rajdhani Exp. was checked by RPF/New Delhi and gold and silver weighing 605 kilograms and currency Notes of Rs.1000 denominations totally valued Rs.1(one) crore was seized. From the same train, on 2.8.2004, on arrival at Mumbai Central, 2 (two) more packages containing approximately 250 kgs. of silver, valued approximately Rs.12,10,000/-was seized. All these